

OREGON DAILY EMERALD

An independent newspaper

www.dailyemerald.com

SINCE 1900 | Volume 106, Issue 133 | Wednesday, April 13, 2005



Executive tickets square off in general election

The two pairs of candidates debate their views on a tuition freeze, campus safety and community relations

BY PARKER HOWELL
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

ASUO Executive candidates Adam Walsh and Kyla Coy begin challenging Ashley Rees and Jael Anker-Lagos for student government's top position today in the ASUO General Election, presenting contrasting plans for a tuition freeze, community relations and campus safety.

Rees and Anker-Lagos received the most votes in last week's primary contest, garnering 907. Walsh and Coy took second with 445 votes, surpassing third-place challengers Jacob Daniels and Adi Cargni by just 22 votes.

A key issue in April 6's executive debate, a tuition freeze, continues to distinguish the candidates.

Walsh told the Emerald he would support a freeze but not at the expense of the Oregon Opportunity Grant. He said his opponents' plan would cut the program to fund the freeze, reducing a form of aid for students who already struggle to pay tuition.

"It will be hard to get, but it's something that students want and something we'd continue to advocate for as long as it doesn't affect the Oregon Opportunity Grant," Walsh said. "The reality of it is that any ASUO Executive candidate who tells you they're going to get the tuition freeze for you is lying to you."

Coy said the ability to obtain a freeze is ultimately outside the purview of the executive. If it happens, it's because the Oregon Legislature found the money, he said.

But Rees said the freeze is her ticket's "main issue," saying it is feasible.

"A lot of the other candidates are claiming this isn't something we can win, that this isn't possible," she said. "We want to make it clear that this is very possible to win as long as you have dedicated students working on it."

Rees said students won a freeze from 1997 until 2001, adding that the House, Senate and governor have prioritized the freeze in their budget proposals. She said her executive would continue to lobby to preserve the funding.

Rees and Anker-Lagos also countered the Walsh-Coy ticket's assertion that stronger campus-community relations are necessary. Anker-Lagos said campaigning for a housing standards code earlier this year was "one of our great victories."

"There is this bridge that we've built with the community, especially working on housing standards," she said. "It's unfortunate that Adam doesn't see this bridge because he's never actually walked on it and participated in the housing standards. He was not at the hearings."

Yet Walsh said although the executive currently has a community outreach position, he wants to "really step up the work that they're doing and make sure they work side by side with city councilors."

He added that the person filling the position needs to be aware of not just the city council but of what's going on with neighborhood organizations.

"For them to say that it's a non-issue just really emphasizes how narrow of a scope their platform has," he said.

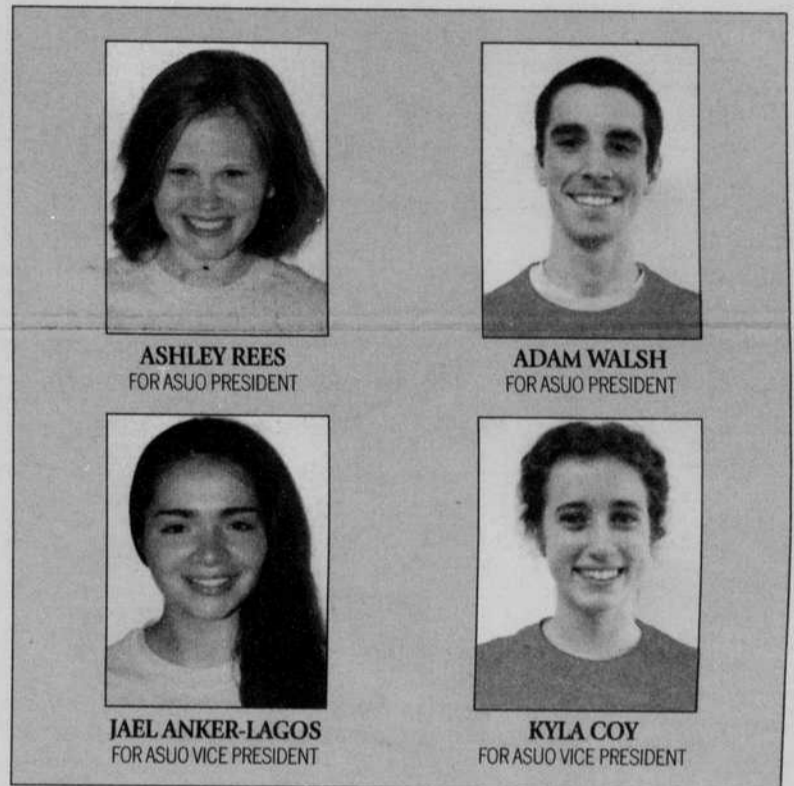
Walsh targeted his opponents' position on increasing safety lighting at night. While he said the path to Autzen Stadium is windy and "there are dark spots," which could possibly be improved, he said students can already obtain a map from the Department of Public Safety showing lighted walkways.

"When you look at it ... there's lines in yellow for every route on campus that is lit," he said. "It's basically a grid of yellow. So when they talk about not having enough lighting on campus, I really think they should do their research a little bit better."

Coy said crime statistics show there is more arson than assault on campus.

Walsh said safe walk programs, like those currently in place at other schools, have not been utilized by students.

Rees said in addition to lighting the Autzen area and starting a walking service, her ticket wants to go "beyond physical safety" to address students' ability to feel safe on campus. She said a more holistic approach is necessary



ASHLEY REES
FOR ASUO PRESIDENT

ADAM WALSH
FOR ASUO PRESIDENT

JAEL ANKER-LAGOS
FOR ASUO VICE PRESIDENT

KYLA COY
FOR ASUO VICE PRESIDENT

to address the campus climate.

Walsh said he would change the DPS policy on citing underage students experiencing alcohol poisoning with a violation charge of minor in possession.

"It seems ironic that the name would be 'Public Safety' if really we're putting students in jeopardy because ... it truly is a very dangerous thing to be taking the chance that any student

might not call for help for a friend who is potentially going to die," he said.

Coy said her ticket's role as outsiders to the ASUO will be beneficial.

"I think a fresh outlook is priceless because you're seeing things from a different angle than you would from the inside; you can approach problems from a different way," she said.

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Long-range plan meeting runs short

No one from the public attended the meeting, held to address the updated campus development plan

BY MEGHAN M. CUNIFF
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

A campus planning committee meeting scheduled to last an hour and a half was adjourned after just seven minutes Tuesday afternoon, something University Planning Associate Christine Thompson said was not unexpected given the number of public hearings and the attention that planning issues has received in the past few months.

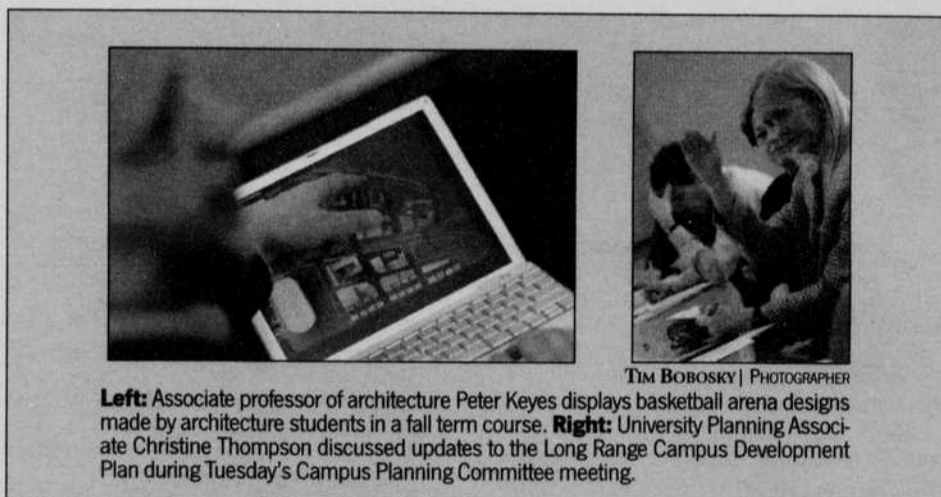
The meeting's focus was the Long Range Campus Development Plan, but because the updates being done to the plan are in their final stages, Thompson said the need for community members to voice opinions or concerns may not seem as pressing to them as it was a few months ago.

The campus development plan is being updated for the first time since 1991, with changes focusing on increasing development capacity while maintaining the beauty and open spaces mandated in the original plan.

The meeting agenda included time for a public hearing, but no members of the public showed up to speak.

"I don't think it was for lack of interest," Thompson said after the meeting, referring to the number of chances the public had in previous months to voice concerns.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to Thompson's informing the committee about the next steps in the update process, something that



Left: Associate professor of architecture Peter Keyes displays basketball arena designs made by architecture students in a fall term course. Right: University Planning Associate Christine Thompson discussed updates to the Long Range Campus Development Plan during Tuesday's Campus Planning Committee meeting.

took just a few minutes.

"This is the fastest campus planning committee meeting on record," said Carole Daly, committee chair and senior director of development opportunities.

Members stayed after the meeting adjourned to discuss various happenings at the University and in the planning department, such as the University's plans for a basketball arena, and development on Franklin Boulevard near the Williams' Bakery site and the vacant car lot recently purchased by the University of Oregon Foundation.

Associate professor of architecture Peter Keyes brought a laptop computer with arena designs that students in the architecture department completed for a course that architecture professor emeritus Michael Utsey offered fall term. University graduate Bob Thompson, who is Nike CEO Phil Knight's primary architect,

worked with the students throughout the term and critiqued the finished designs with other architecture experts.

University Planning Director and Architect Chris Ramey attended the design presentations in December, as did Karl Wagenknecht, a dentist with an office on the same block as the bakery site, and his wife, Jeanne, a University business professor.

Allan Price, vice president for University Advancement, said in a Feb. 10 Emerald article that the University must purchase a medical building, a video store and a 7-11 store if the arena is to be built on the site ("University finalizes bakery site purchase"). Fairmount Neighborhood Association Co-Chair Jeff Nelson announced at the group's March 31 meeting that Wagenknecht has expressed to him his unwillingness to relocate his office.

CAMPUS, page 8

Waterless urinal takes a trial run in restroom

The EMU Board chose to install the donated fixture because of its potential to conserve water

BY EVA SYLWESTER
NEWS REPORTER

Male University students now have a unique opportunity to help conserve water on campus. A waterless urinal was installed in an EMU men's restroom near the ASUO office during spring break.

The idea came from Brandon Rhodes, vice chair of the EMU Board of Directors and chair of the building's long-range planning committee.

Rhodes, a senior majoring in political science and environmental studies, said he first heard of waterless urinals in Environmental Studies 411: Campus Environmental Sustainability.

"Someone just mentioned it offhand in class," Rhodes said. He said he made a note of the idea because he thought that, as a member of the EMU Board, he could do something with it.

"This is the students' building, and part of what students believe in, broadly, seems to be sustainability," Rhodes said.

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